

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting January 15, 2003

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2003, scheduled for 8:30 a.m., in the Grass Valley City Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, California.

Members Present: Drew Bedwell, Ann Guerra, Chet Krage, Linda Stevens, Josh Susman, Robin Sutherland

Members Absent: Kerry Arnett

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant

Standing Orders: Vice-Chairman Susman convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Introductions:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports:

Executive Director Landon explained the purpose of each fund in the financial reports to provide information to the new Commissioners. Commissioner Stevens noted that in Fund 327, W.E. 2.3, the consulting line item was incomplete. Commissioner Krage noted that in six months of the fiscal year, thirty-three percent of the budget had been spent in fifty percent of the time, and questioned if the projects budgeted would still be accomplished. Mr. Landon responded that a mid-year budget revision showing adjustments would be presented to the Commission at their next meeting for review and approval.

2. Correspondence:

E. New York Times - Copy of an article regarding roundabouts.

Vice-Chairman Susman encouraged commissioners to forward to staff any information on roundabouts and other items of interest regarding transportation issues. He also noted the changes made in NCTC's scheduled meeting dates.

3. Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director Landon explained that this is a monthly report he provides the Commission on his activities.

3.1 I-80/SR89 South Roundabout Project

Executive Director Landon stated that the proposed roundabout project at the I-80/SR89 interchange has been approved by Caltrans and the Town of Truckee will be taking the lead to construct two roundabouts in place of Caltrans proposed signals. Commissioner Krage questioned how the roundabout system would handle January and February peak traffic load that occurs at 4:00 p.m. Sunday from ski traffic. Executive Director Landon responded that he did not know of a system that could be constructed to handle that type of peak load; the limiting factor at that point in time was not the intersections, it was the capacity at I-80 and the SR 89 "Mousehole". Vice-Chairman Susman stated that Truckee has a policy of not wanting to build infrastructure for peak demand periods. That the consensus of the community is to accept occasional periods of gridlock in exchange for not having vast expanses of pavement. A brief discussion occurred regarding the design of the proposed roundabout and future use of roundabouts in Truckee.

3.5 NCTC Traffic Model Update

Executive Director Landon noted that the draft report for the traffic model update was being reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and that it should be available for Caltrans staff in approximately a week. This model update will assist Caltrans in doing their design work on the Dorsey Drive Interchange project.

3.6 Status Report on Dorsey Drive Interchange Project

Executive Director Landon stated that the Dorsey Drive Interchange project had been delayed while NCTC updated its traffic model. Representatives from the community met with Caltrans on this topic in December, and a subsequent meeting has been set for January 23rd. Mr. Landon asked the Commission to recognize this group as an "Ad Hoc Task Force" representing the community. Commissioner Bedwell stated he would like to exclude Supervisor Van Zant and suggested having himself and Commissioner Sutherland on this task force. Executive Director Landon responded that to avoid having a quorum of NCTC on the task force, a maximum of three commissioners could participate. Commissioner Krage made a motion to recognize the group that met in December and will be meeting in January as an Ad Hoc Task Force and to replace Mr. Van Zant with Commissioner Bedwell. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3.8 Transportation Impacts of Proposed State Budget

Executive Director Landon noted that the governor is proposing elimination of the Traffic Congestion Relief Program. This program provided funding for significant projects in most major metropolitan areas, and did very little for rural areas, other than provide for some road maintenance. He stated there will be an immediate reduction in road maintenance funds from that program to Nevada County. Also NCTC will experience a reduction in its share of funds from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) because some of the Traffic Congestion Relief funds were in that program. Mr. Landon stated there will be a potentially severe reduction in the Vehicle License Fee funds which will reduce the Measure F funds that come to Nevada County for road projects. Also there may be an elimination of some 1,300 positions at Caltrans which may negatively impact project delivery throughout the state.

4. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager, reviewed his written report on the status of projects in Nevada County. The following is a synopsis of the discussions that occurred regarding some of the projects:

- Dorsey Drive Interchange: Mr. Brannon stated he had met with Caltrans staff from every functional unit that had a deliverable date to this project to review where they could shorten their time schedule to provide the finished project earlier than planned. He then reviewed the revised schedule with the Commission, noting that the approved construction contract originally planned for July 2006, is now scheduled for December 2007, a seventeen month delay. Construction of the Dorsey Drive Interchange would start in the spring of 2008 and would be functionally useable in 2009. The meeting scheduled with Caltrans and the Ad Hoc Task Force Committee scheduled for January 23rd will present and provide background for all of the dates listed in the schedule.
- Modify Traffic Signal at Brunswick Road: Mr. Brannon noted that the Commission had indicated they would like to consider using heritage poles. The poles cost \$9,000 each. Caltrans Traffic Division does not have the requisite crash test analysis to use heritage poles at this location. Mr. Landon noted that these poles are being installed throughout the state and nation and perhaps there is another agency that has already done the testing and analysis. Mr. Brannon stated he had not researched this matter thoroughly and would do so and would report back to the Commission his findings.
- SR 49 from Wolf/Combie to Grass Valley: Mr. Brannon referred to a letter from the City of Grass Valley to Caltrans regarding the location of an interchange at Crestview Drive, south of McKnight Way, noting that developing a project at this location would take a great deal of coordination. Mr. Landon noted that this interchange is identified in the Grass Valley General Plan and that there are development pressures that indicate a need to define where this potential interchange will be built. He gave his opinion that this project will be an opportunity to utilize the County's improved communications with Caltrans to come to a mutually agreeable solution.

Commissioner Krage asked if it was possible to schedule a meeting in March where the Commission could have an opportunity to review Caltrans preliminary design of the widening of SR 49 from Wolf/Combie Road to Grass Valley and to see the County's concepts regarding driveway access and encroachments. He noted Mr. Brannon's report showed dates for requests to enter private property and stated that he would like the Commission to have information prior to Caltrans involvement with the community.

After discussion, the Commission decided to have a "presentation" by Caltrans at the March meeting.

- Bear River to Wolf/Combie Road: Mr. Brannon reported the results of his research on the potential for \$1.8 million dollars of cost savings from this project to be credited back to Nevada County's share of STIP funds. He stated that when this project was awarded, the low bid was \$1.8 million dollars under the engineer's estimate. Under AB 608, regional transportation planning agencies have the opportunity to request a credit to their county shares if the contract award amount is less than 80% of the amount programmed in the STIP. In this case, the difference between the two amounts is outside the guidelines of AB 608.

Commissioner Krage asked if there was a waiver or petition process whereby the Commission could request the CTC for the return of the money. A Commission discussion ensued regarding ways to possibly get the money returned to the County as it was less than 1% outside AB 608 limits. Mr. Brannon said he would see what he

could do. Mr. Landon stated that he would pursue the matter to see if there was any opportunity to have funding credited back to the county shares.

➤ Colorization of the Bear River Bridge

Harriet McKay, a member from the audience, questioned if the idea to color the concrete of the Bear River Bridge could be eliminated from the project.

Mr. Brannon responded it had been proposed to Caltrans to color the rail, and materials had been provided to the Commissioners for their review and comment. Commissioner Krage provided a brief history on the development of the bridge design. Mr. Brannon and the Commissioners further discussed the design of the bridge and coloring of the concrete. Vice-Chairman Susman stated he supported colorization of some sort. Other Commissioners agreed. He suggested that prior to the next Commission meeting, the Commissioners let Mr. Landon know their color preference for the bridge.

CONSENT ITEMS:

5. NCTC Minutes: December 18, 2002. *Approved.*
6. Nevada County Transit Services Department Request NCTC's Approval of Certifications and Assurances for their 2001/02 FY FTA 5311 Grant Application Package in the Amount of \$105,980. *Resolution 03-01 adopted.*
7. Disposal of Surplus Equipment. *Resolution 03-02 adopted.*
8. Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Traffic Impact Study. *Authorized the Executive Director to include the SNMH Traffic Impact Study in the 2002/03 OWP.*

Motion made by Commissioner Guerra to approve the consent items and was seconded by Commissioner Krage. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

9. Election of Officers.

Motion made by Commissioner Stevens to nominate Vice-Chairman Susman to be Chair. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Krage to nominate Commissioner Stevens to be Vice-Chair. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No comments were made.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., at the City Council Chambers in Nevada City. A workshop will be held at 5:00 p.m. prior to the NCTC meeting to present to the public the Brunswick Corridor Study.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Joshua J. Susman, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission